

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

1961 MAY 13 PM 3 05

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SENT TO: Amembassy, LONDON

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EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR BRUCE

VERBATIM TEXT

Following letter dated May 9 received from Defense (unnecessary words omitted):

QUOTE Possibility exists that overt Cuban military effort against Guantanamo Naval Base may make Naval Air Station at Leeward Point untenable for flight operations. In view of this possibility, JCS have indicated is highly desirable another airfield within support range of Guantanamo Naval Base be available for use, if ~~space~~ necessary, in mounting combat operations with tactical aircraft. Airfield on Mayaguana Island in Bahamas, which is currently being used by USAF in connection with Long Range Proving Ground, would meet this requirement.

It is our intent to use Mayaguana airfield only if no other means are available to support required number of tactical aircraft involved. We foresee there may not be sufficient aircraft carriers in area to fulfill this mission. Facilities in US too distant.

We recognize use of the Mayaguana airfield would require consent of HMG and that seeking obtain this consent could pose political considerations most serious nature. However, unless in your view these political considerations militate against approaching HMG at this time, it is

requested

Drafted by:

EUR:BNA:WCBurdett:ac 5/13

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

E ACTING SECRETARY

Clearances:

EUR - ~~Mr. Kohler~~ S/S Mr. Mau
Mr. Kohler

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

State 12K-76-187
By MFO NARS, Date 8-6-76

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requested that appropriate steps be taken to obtain its consent to use Mayaguana airfield under conditions I have outlined above. In this ~~respect~~ regard, you may assure British no action would be taken, in terms of prestocking supplies or other activities which would in any way suggest contemplated tactical use of facility, until its use becomes necessary. UNQUOTE

Request your views on HMG reaction to approach on above lines.

In ~~and~~ particular would HMG seek quid pro quo and if so what.

BOWLES